



## ***Supervisor Chris Burdick's Report – July 28, 2017***



### **UPDATES & RECAP OF TOWN BOARD ACTIONS IN JULY**

#### **POLICE STATION RENOVATION PROJECT**

##### **Contaminated Soil Removal Now Complete**

I had reported that in digging for the foundation and septic system, the contractors encountered contaminated soils (fuel oil, gasoline). I am pleased to report that the removal was completed last week, all of which was done in accordance with a plan submitted to and approved by Westchester County Department of Health.

##### **Carports and Solar Panels**

As earlier reported, we have issued a request for bids for carports for the station and proposals for solar panels which would be installed on top of the carports. The carports are a cost-effective means of protecting police vehicles from the elements, prolonging their useful life. Of course whether we proceed with either the carport or the solar panels will depend upon the bids and proposals received and whether they are financially attractive. We have given those responding to the solar Request for Proposals the option of including other town facilities which may be suitable for solar installations. We expect the proposals and bids to be submitted in sufficient time to evaluate them with recommendations to the Town Board for the August 15 meeting.

##### **Construction Progress Update**

For the latest update from Calgi Construction, the construction manager for the project, please [click here](#).

### **Within Project Budget – But Completion to be Later**

Notwithstanding the unanticipated costs of the remediation, we are still within the \$7 million project budget, however, the timetable has been set back. We now anticipate completion sometime in the Spring.

## **SEWER PROJECT**

**Design Engineers on Schedule** As previously reported, the Town Board hired Woodard & Curran, engineers, to design the sewer system. We are targeting next Summer/Early Fall to bid out the construction work for the system based on Woodard & Curran's design. Over the last few weeks they have been preparing for survey and geotechnical work; meeting with property owners both in the sewer district and those along the sewer line but not in the district eligible to connect (see below); preliminary informal discussions with NYC Department of Environmental Protection and Westchester County Health Department regarding standards and schematic design; and further developing the basic lay-out of the system. Please see the Woodard & Curran's [Design Status Report](#) dated July 28, 2017 for further detail. For those property owners in the sewer district who have not yet completed the *Sewer Service Information Form*, please do so at your earliest convenience.

**Board Adopts Policy for Additional Use and Sewer Connections** Following a June 21 Town Board meeting with property owners outside the sewer district but whose properties front the sewer lines, the Board at its July 6 meeting adopted a policy on the unallocated capacity of the sewer system. By way of background, the Town will be taking over the wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) of the Department of Corrections and Community Supervision (DOCCS) which presently serves DOCCS' two correctional facilities in Bedford Hills. We anticipate that the WWTP will have a limited amount of available capacity after giving effect to the flows from properties in the sewer district. Director of Planning Jeff Osterman and Public Works Commissioner Kevin Winn adopted the [following policy](#) which would be a chapter in the sewer law which I anticipate the Board will adopt in the Fall, all of which, of course, are subject to public comment and a public hearing.

**Town Seeks NYS Grant for Sewer Project** Following Board authorization on July 6, the Town submitted on July 26 an application for a grant of up to \$5 million from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) toward the costs of the sewer project. DEC has implemented a Water Quality Improvement Project Program which includes a category for wastewater improvements for communities with inadequate on-site septic systems. Our sewer project to install a collection system and connect to the DOCCS wastewater treatment plant is eligible. Maximum grant available per system is \$5 million. There is a 15% match requirement, which can be met with the \$1.2 million that the Sewer District will be borrowing for the project. It should be noted that the full funding for the sewer project already is committed and the project can proceed without the grant. If the grant is awarded, it would reduce the Town's need to draw on other funding sources, which then could be made available for further projects, extension of the existing system or advanced wastewater systems for targeted areas/properties.

**Regulatory Approvals** The Town also has had informal preliminary discussions both with the NYC Department of Environmental Protection, which is both providing \$12.8 million in funding for the project and whose approvals are necessary, and with Westchester County Health Department, also whose permitting is required. These discussions are going well, as are discussions with DOCCS on the outlines of an agreement on its share of the operating and maintenance costs.

**AND DON'T FORGET TO PUMP YOUR SEPTIC SYSTEM** As you may know, the law requires pumping your septic system at least once every five years. Now is a good time to do so while the weather allows it.

### **SEPTIC SYSTEM PROBLEMS?**

And for those with problems and not in the sewer district or otherwise able to connect to the sewer system that there are two programs to help with septic problems.

**Towns' Septic System Repair and Replacement Program** This program is run by the Town and provides for reimbursement for up to 50% of the cost of repair or replacement of a failed septic system for property owners in the New York City watershed (about 85% of the Town's land area – portions of Bedford Village are not in the watershed). Anyone is eligible regardless of income. Please [click here](#) for further information and an application

**Allied Community Enterprise Program** The good news is this program covers *any* property in Bedford with a failed septic system. Under the program operated by Allied Community Enterprise (ACE), property owners in Bedford (also Lewisboro and Pound Ridge) can access financial help for repairing or replacing their failed septic systems up to 100% of the cost. ACE uses its own consultants and contractors for the program, which is available to those with limited financial means: maximum annual income is \$69,888 for a single-persona household; \$79,923 for a two-person household; \$99,814 for a four-person household and \$116,853 a six-person household and no more than \$15,000 in liquid assets. ACE received funding from Westchester Community Foundation for outreach efforts and those interested should contact ACE at 914-999-2295 or [info@alliedcommunity.org](mailto:info@alliedcommunity.org)

### **TRAFFIC SAFETY WORKING GROUP (TSWG)**

Highlights of the 7/13/17 meeting include:

- The Highway Dept. will proceed with the installation of a raised crosswalk and speed hump along the Village Green in Bedford Village in the fall.
- Two commercial vehicle checks were conducted on May 9 and June 20 by the Police Department. The first resulted in 52 summonses and the second in 28 summonses. The summonses were issued for a variety of reasons: safety equipment, items in truck beds, etc.
- The Police Dept. conducted a 6 AM speed enforcement detail on June 26 on Route 172 in Bedford Village and issued four summonses. In May, 30 summonses were issued.

For the notes in their entirety, [click here](#).

**LED LIGHT CONVERSION PROJECT MOVES AHEAD** At its July 18 meeting, the Town Board approved contracts with NYSERDA and NYSEG to move ahead with conversion of approximately 570 NYSEG street lights to high efficiency LED lighting. The project involves purchasing certain facilities and equipment from NYSEG to install the LED street

lights. The NYSEDA agreement provides for NYSEDA's reimbursement to the Town of up to \$250,000 of project costs, under the grant it awarded to the Town last year, Bedford being only one of two municipalities in the state awarded such a grant. The grant requires a 25% cost share by the Town which will be financed through the 2017 bond issuance. The savings in energy and maintenance will exceed the Town's amortized cost of the project.

### **ANTIOCH BAPTIST CHURCH**

Marion Blount of Antioch Homes Housing Development Fund Corp and Tom McGrath, chairman of Blue Mountain Development Corporation, presented an update at the Board's July 6 meeting on the affordable housing project on Railroad Avenue comprised of 12 apartment units. The Project began immediately following the closing of the financing in March and is anticipated to be completed in September or October with occupancy available as early as October. Individuals interested in the units should contact Housing Action Council of Tarrytown, New York which is marketing the units (<http://www.housingactioncouncil.org/>). The Town's role in the project is significant, including, providing vacant land for a new septic system; applying for and administering a \$421,000 Community Development Block Grant from New York State; and through Blue Mountain, providing key financing. We are delighted with how well the project is proceeding and that it is on time and within budget.

### **COMMUTER PARKING – MOVING AHEAD**

We are continuing to explore ways of reducing the waiting list for the "prime" lots (Lot 1 in Katonah and Lot 4 in Bedford Hills). As earlier reported, the Town will be acquiring software (also considering parking consultants) to maximize the available spaces. However, we don't want to create a situation in which existing resident and business permit holders are denied the ability to utilize their permits. Comptroller Abe Zambrano, who heads the Town's Parking Bureau, is working assiduously on this matter. Measures will include a modest increase in the number of available spaces and other options are continued to be explored to accommodate more residents.

### **COMMUNITY COMPOSTING**

We're delighted with the positive response to Community Composting. Under the program, which is in cooperation with Bedford 2020 and began last Saturday, Town of Bedford residents may dispose of organic food waste at the [Recycling Center on Railroad Ave in Bedford Hills](#) on Saturdays 8am-3pm. Interested? Sign up for it at Bedford 2020's website at <http://bedford2020.org/communitycompost/>

### **FINANCE DEPARTMENT REPORT**

From Comptroller Abraham Zambrano June 2017 Finance Department Report:

#### **EXPENDITURES**

**General and Highway Funds.** Detail reports for both the General and Highway have been included this month as part of the financial report. The overall expenditure percentage for the General and Highway Funds are within normal ranges as of June 30, 2017. The General Fund is at 45.69% while the Highway Fund is slightly under at 40.85% for the year.

#### **REVENUE AREAS OF NOTE**

**Mortgage Tax.** Figures obtained from Westchester County through June 30, 2017 indicate that the first Mortgage Tax installment will be slightly under \$510,000. In spite of the fact that this year's numbers are slightly below 2016, projections for the rest of year are still demonstrating that we will exceed our budgeted \$1,040,000.

**Sales Tax.** The first quarter's sales tax payment in the amount of \$630,067 was received

on May 5<sup>th</sup>. Projections for the rest of the year based on economic indicators and past history continue to demonstrate that the \$2,480,000 budgeted for 2017 will be exceeded. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter payment is projected to be in the \$623,000 range.

**Parking.** Parking revenues projections for the year will surpass the amount budgeted for 2017. Based on the amount received thus far this year, we will be generating just over a million dollars in parking fees by the end of December.

**Fines and Forfeited Bail.** The collection of fines imposed by the Justice Court are recorded a month in arrears due to the timing of the processing by the NYS Office of Court Administration. Fines collected from January through May are slightly higher than the same period in 2016. Projections for the rest of the year indicate that we will exceed budget by over \$150,000.

**Safety Inspections.** Safety Inspections fees in June showed a substantial increase. Although the year to date total is still below expected amount, the projected deficit of over \$100,000 decrease as the result of fees collected in June.

I ask you to please send me an e-mail at [supervisor@bedfordny.gov](mailto:supervisor@bedfordny.gov) should you have any questions or comments on this report or any of our work on the Town Board.



Chris Burdick  
Town Supervisor